



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Florida

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ORLANDO MAN ARRESTED FOR
MORTGAGE FRAUD CONSPIRACY

Orlando, FL - United States Attorney A. Brian Albritton announces the arrest yesterday of Edwin M. Lugo-Abreu (age 34, of Orlando) on an indictment charging him with mortgage fraud. If convicted on all counts, Lugo-Abreu faces a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison.

According to the indictment, Lugo-Abreu devised a scheme to defraud E-Loan, The Lending Group Inc., and WMC Mortgage Corporation by falsifying and fraudulently applying for mortgage financing and fraudulently transferring title ownership of properties used to secure the mortgage financing.

Three other individuals, Alexis Izazaga, Carlos Valentin and Yariel Valentin, have entered guilty pleas and been sentenced in connection with this scheme.

An indictment is merely a formal charge that a defendant has committed a violation of the federal criminal laws, and every defendant is presumed innocent unless, and until, proven guilty.

This case was investigated by the United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Secret Service. It is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Carlos A. Perez.

This case is part of the Middle District of Florida's Mortgage Fraud Surge, a joint effort by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Middle District of Florida, the United States Postal Inspection Service and the United States Secret Service and numerous other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The Surge focuses intensive investigative and prosecutorial resources on the mortgage fraud crisis that plagues middle Florida and has contributed to the current economic situation nationwide. It is designed to accelerate mortgage fraud cases in order to bring perpetrators to justice quickly and provide maximum deterrence. For more information on the Middle District of Florida's Mortgage Fraud Surge, please contact Steve Cole, Public Affairs Officer for the United States Attorney's Office.